

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 04722 220240Z

70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 INT-05 DOTE-00 HUD-01 COME-00

CEQ-01 EPA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /050 W

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R 220046Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7692
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, ID

SUBJECT: OPENING OF MINI-INDONESIA

1. "BEAUTIFUL MINIATURE INDONESIA" PARK, OBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY AND STUDENT PROTEST WHEN FIRST PROPOSED IN DECEMBER 1971, WAS FORMALLY INAUGURATED BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO APRIL 20 BEFORE STAR-STUDDED AUDIENCE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND MOST OF CREAM OF INDONESIAN ELITE. INAUGURATION WENT OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT; EARLIER MUTTERINGS ABOUT PROTEST PLANS AMONG STUDENTS CAME TO NOTHING IN FACE OF FAIT-ACCOMPLI OF PROJECT'S COMPLETION AND DEMORALIZATION OF POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATORS IN POST-JANUARY 15 (1974) JAKARTA RIOT ATMOSPHERE.

2. MINI INDONESIA, WHICH CONSISTS OF ELABORATE BUILDINGS REPRESENTING EACH OF 26 INDONESIAN PROVINCES SET AROUND ARTIFICIAL LAKE WITH ISLANDS IN FORM OF INDONESIA ARCHIPELAGO AND CONNECTED BY MINIATURE RAILWAY AND CABLE CAR, WAS BRAINCHILD OF MRS. TIEN SUHARTO (REPUTEDLY INSPIRED BY A VISIT TO DISNEYLAND) AND WAS CONSTRUCTED BY SPECIALLY-

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PAGE 02 JAKART 04722 220240Z

FORMED FOUNDATION, YAYASAN HARAPAN KITA ("OUR HOPE" FND.).

PROVINCIAL PAVILIONS WERE CONSTRUCTED BY RESPECTIVE PROVINCE GOVERNMENTS AND DONATED TO FOUNDATION BY GOVERNORS IN SERIES OF CEREMONIES DURING WEEKS PRIOR TO OFFICIAL OPENING. AT APRIL 20 CEREMONY, MRS. SUHARTO ON BEHALF OF FOUNDATION TURNED COMPLEX OVER TO GOVERNMENT THROUGH PRESIDENT SUHARTO, WHO THEN ENTRUSTED IT BACK TO FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUING MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

3. FOUR-HOUR OPENING CEREMONY FEATURED PROGRAM OF INDONESIAN REGIONAL DANCES AS WELL AS SPEECHES BY JAKARTA GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN AND BOTH SUHARTOS. STRESS WAS ON IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIAN CULTURE AS BINDING FORCE FOR NATION. IN HER REMARKS, MRS. SUHARTO ACKNOWLEDGED CRITICISM WHICH HAD ATTENDED LAUNCHING OF PROJECT AND SAID SHE APPRECIATED THE CRITICISM, "BECAUSE OPPOSITION SERVED US AS A WARNING FORM COMMITTING EVENTUAL ERRORS AND COMPELLED US TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY." (MOST NOTE-WORTHY CAUTION WAS VIRTUAL PUBLICITY BLACKOUT DURING EARLY CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.) SHE ALSO MENTIONED FIGURE OF RPS. 4.5 BILLION (\$11 MILLION) AS COST OF PROJECT TO DATE, AND SAID FUNDS HAS "ORIGINATED FROM THE COMMUNITY, BESIDES ALLOWING INTERESTED CAPITAL INVESTORS -- BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN -- TO TAKE PART, ESPECIALLY IN PROFITABLE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE." (PROMINENT PRESENCE ON FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF MILITARY AND PALACE MIDDLEMEN UNDOUBTEDLY HELPED ASSURE SUCCESS OF LATTER TYPE OF FUND-RAISING EFFORTS, AND NEWLY-ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SELL 5000 SETS OF COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS AT \$1250 PER SET SHOULD NET MORE FROM VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PARK.)

4. WELL-EXECUTED AND ATTRACTIVE NEW PARK WILL BE UNQUESTIONABLE ADDITION TO JAKARTA'S TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES -- AND REPORTEDLY MODEST ENTRANCE FEES WILL LIKELY ENABLE MANY JAVANESE TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH CULTURAL VARIETY OF OTHER AREAS OF INDONESIA. NEVERTHELESS, OVERALL EXTRAVAGANCE OF THIS VENTURE IN FACE OF INDONESIA'S PRESSING BASIC SOCIAL PROBLEMS, PRESSURES EXERTED TO RAISE FUNDS AND ABOVE ALL DOMINANT ROLE OF MRS. SUHARTO ENSURE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 04722 220240Z

MINI INDONESIA WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE CRITICIZED AS SYMBOL OF UNNECESSARY EXTRAVAGANCE BY SUHARTO REGIME. NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC PARKS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART04722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750140-0101
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750429/aaaabbce.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPENING OF MINI-INDONESIA
TAGS: SCUL, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006